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## **Reports**

[Item#1](#)

**Russian Ballistic Missile Defense: Rhetoric and Reality.**  
Strategic Studies Institute. Keir Giles. June 29, 2015.

Russia continues to oppose strenuously U.S. plans for missile defense in Europe, despite the fact that Russia itself seeks to develop comparable missile defense systems, that, by their own logic, would be equally destabilizing. The report reviews Russian plans and progress toward implementing them, to prepare the ground for inevitable future confrontation with Russia over

the rollout of U.S. systems.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1277> [HTML format with a link to the PDF file].

**Item#2 France: Efforts to Counter Islamist Terrorism and Radicalization.** Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Paul Belkin. June 29, 2015.

Several recent deadly terrorist attacks in France and Europe and a growing number of French citizens training and fighting with terrorist organizations in the Middle East and North Africa have considerably heightened concern about the threat of Islamist terrorism in France and Europe. Most recently, on June 26, a man was beheaded during an attempt to blow up a U.S.-owned chemical factory near the city of Lyon. French police have arrested at least one suspect, a French citizen of Muslim background. The attack follows the killing of 17 people in three related terrorist attacks in Paris in early January. Officials believe that the assailants in both the Lyon and Paris attacks had links to Islamist groups espousing violent ideologies. According to European officials, France, which is home to Europe's largest Muslim population (an estimated 5 million–6 million), is the source of the largest number of European fighters in Syria and Iraq, most of whom are thought to be fighting with the Islamic State.

<http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/terror/IN10301.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages, 92.47 KB].

**Item#3**

**Latin America: Impressions of a Troubled Region.** American Enterprise Institute. Roger F. Noriega. June 29,

2015.

According to the author, the current administration has largely ignored Latin American relations, indifferent to the economic decline and instability in several countries, but it's not too late to proactively support free-market exchanges and restore productive relations within the hemisphere.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Latin-America-Impressions-of-a-Troubled-Region1.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages, 381.21 KB].

**Item#4 The Central Sahel: A Perfect Sandstorm.**

International Crisis Group. June 25, 2015.

The Sahel's trajectory is worrying; poverty and population growth, combined with growing jihadi extremism, contraband and human trafficking constitute the perfect storm of actual and potential instability, according to the report. Without holistic, sustained efforts against entrenched criminal networks, misrule and underdevelopment, radicalisation and migration are likely to spread and exacerbate.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/africa/west-africa/227-the-central-sahel-a-perfect-sandstorm.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages, 1,021.80 KB].

**Item#5 The New Ukrainian Exceptionalism.** YaleGlobal.

Matthew Rojansky and Mykhailo Minakov. June 23, 2015.

Ukraine struggles to survive as an independent nation against external and internal forces – Russia, the powerful neighbor next door, and Russian sympathizers throughout eastern Ukraine. “Russian-backed aggression, relentless propaganda and meddling in Ukraine’s domestic politics have pushed many Ukrainians to adopt a deeply polarized worldview, in which constructive criticism, dissenting views, and even observable facts are rejected out of hand if they are seen as harmful to Ukraine,” argue the authors. The writers identify this as a new form of exceptionalism. If commitments to tolerance, human rights and freedom to dissent are undermined, Ukraine will differ little from Russia. And that would give the international community pause in coming to the struggling nation’s aid.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/new-ukrainian-exceptionalism> [HTML format, various paging].

### **Item#6 Challenge of “Recent-ism” in the Middle East.**

YaleGlobal. Alexander Evans. June 25, 2015.

Governments can get caught up in sweeping generalizations about the brutal extremists rampaging through Iraq, Syria and Libya based on the most recent news. ISIL, ISIS, the Islamic State have slaughtered thousands and may control up to half of Syria and a third of Iraq. The extremists’ hold over any community is tenuous. Hundreds of thousands flee the conflict, and the international community invests billions in counter-intelligence and airstrikes that bombard key holdings. Alexander Evans, who leads the UN Security Council’s expert panel on Al Qaeda, breaks down some myths about the extremists and offers recommendations.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/challenge-%E2%80%9Crecentism%E2%80%9D-middle-east> [HTML format, various paging].

#### **Item#7**

**The Addition of Trainers to Iraq: Background for Congress.** Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kathleen J. McInnis. June 16, 2015.

Responding to recent setbacks in Iraq and Syria in the fight against the Islamic State organization (IS, aka ISIL/ISIS/Daesh), on June 10, 2015, President Obama authorized the deployment of an additional 450 troops to train, advise, and assist the Iraqi Security Forces. These U.S. forces are to join the 3,100 already in theater, which would bring the total number of U.S. forces in Iraq up to approximately 3,550. Approximately half of those additional forces would advise the 8th Iraqi Division on the use of its ground forces and help build connections between the government in Baghdad and local Sunni tribes in Anbar province. The other half are to perform logistic and force protection functions. Reflecting the shift in the campaign's center of gravity away from Mosul in northern Iraq, new troops are to be based in Anbar Province at Taqaddum, an Iraqi air base situated between Ramadi and Fallujah. This would be the fifth training site established in the counter-IS campaign.

<http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/mideast/R44073.pdf>  
[PDF format, 6 pages, 569.72 KB].

**Item#8 The Future of Mobility: Scenarios for China in 2030.** RAND Corporation. Liisa Ecola et al. June 30, 2015.

Researchers developed two scenarios to envision the future of mobility in China in 2030. Economic growth, the presence of constraints on vehicle ownership and driving, and environmental conditions differentiate the scenarios.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research\\_reports/RR900/RR991/RAND\\_RR991.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR900/RR991/RAND_RR991.pdf) [PDF format, 118 pages, 3.1 MB].

**Item#9 Polls on Patriotism. American Enterprise Institute.** Karlyn Bowman et al. June 29, 2015.

How proud are Americans of their country? As Independence Day approaches, the opinion poll focuses on patriotism in the United States, examining Americans' self-professed patriotism, how people describe others' patriotism, and reasons people are proud of the US. The study also looks at how patriotism in the United States compares to patriotism in other countries.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Bowman\\_Public-Opinion-Study\\_Patriotism\\_2015.pdf](http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Bowman_Public-Opinion-Study_Patriotism_2015.pdf) [PDF format, 41 pages, 787.48 KB].

**Item#10 Achieving the United States' Intended Nationally Determined Contribution.** Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. June 2015.

Nations are working toward a new global climate agreement later this year in Paris. To that end, countries have begun submitting their "intended nationally

determine contributions” (INDCs) to the agreement. In its INDC, the United States said it intends to achieve an economy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions 26–28 percent below 2005 levels in 2025. Based on available estimates, measures already adopted or proposed will reduce emissions 19.5 to 23 percent below 2005 levels, meaning additional measures will be needed to achieve the 2025 target.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.c2es.org/docUploads/achieving-us-indc.pdf>  
[PDF format, 2 pages, 150.59 KB].

#### **Item#11**

**Building Climate Equity.** World Resources Institute. David Waskow et al. June 2015.

For more than two decades, crafting global actions that all nations believe to be equitable has been a central challenge for international climate policy. A new approach is required to resolve this challenge. Building on the experiences of 23 countries, the report demonstrates that climate action and equity can be mutually supportive and that well-designed climate policies can strengthen the capabilities of the least well-off and most vulnerable.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/building-climate-equity-ES.pdf> Executive Summary [PDF format, 16 pages , 1 MB].

<http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/building-climate-equity-072014.pdf> [PDF format, 120 pages, 3.9 MB].

#### **Item#12 Greenhouse Gas Pledges by Parties to the**



**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.** Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jane A. Leggett. June 29, 2015.

International negotiations are underway toward an agreement, due in December 2015, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regarding commitments and actions to address human-related, global climate change from 2020 on. The report briefly summarizes the existing commitments and pledges of selected national and regional governments to limit their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as contributions to the global effort.

<http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/misc/R44092.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages, 268.32 KB].

### **Item#13**

**Building a More Inclusive National Park System for All Americans.** Center for American Progress. Nidhi Thakar et al. June 24, 2015.

According to the authors, Congress and the president should work to conserve places that better reflect America's diverse population and help engage new generations to visit and explore their shared heritage and resources.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/DiversityNPS-brief1.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages, 226.87 KB].

**Item#14 The Big Sort: College Reputation and Labor Market Outcomes.** National Bureau of Economic Research.

W. Bentley MacLeod et al. Web posted July 2, 2015.

The authors find that the reputation of a college is correlated with their graduates' earnings growth. They interpret this finding in a setting in which individuals choose colleges based on their reputations, and in which a school's reputation in turn provides information about its students' abilities and about its value added.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w21230.pdf> [PDF format, 73 pages, 1.09 MB].

**Item#15 Americans' Internet Access: 2000–2015.** Pew Research Center. Andrew Perrin and Maeve Duggan. June 26, 2015.

The analysis of 15 years–worth of data highlights several key trends: For some groups, especially young adults, those with high levels of education, and those in more affluent households, internet penetration is at full saturation levels. For other groups, such as older adults, those with less educational attainment, and those living in lower–income households, adoption has historically been lower but rising steadily, especially in recent years. At the same time, digital gaps still persist.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/06/2015-06-26\\_internet-usage-across-demographics-discover\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/06/2015-06-26_internet-usage-across-demographics-discover_FINAL.pdf) [PDF format, 13 pages, 295.73 KB].

**Information Resource Center**  
**Beijing American Center**

**Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Beijing**

**Tel: (86-10) 6597-3242**

**Email: [ircbeijing@state.gov](mailto:ircbeijing@state.gov)**

**Web Site: <http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/irc.html>**